

It's My Number

Materials needed: 0-9 or 0-5 numeral cards cut up, one set per partner group, paper, pencil (if students record math sentence)

Object of the game: Be the first person to use all 5 cards to make a number sentence whose solution is equal to the target card.

How to play: Place 5 cards face up (in a row) on a table or desk in between two students. Place the remaining cards face down in a pile, and use as a "draw" pile. Turn one card over from the draw pile to be the "target" number. Both players work with the 5 cards and target number to generate a number sentence that equals the target number. As soon as a student has a solution, the player says, "I have a solution. This is how my number sentence works...."

Play may continue to find alternate solutions to the display of cards or begin another round by reshuffling and re-dealing the cards with a new target number.

Teacher tips: Scaffold the game by using lesser values on the number cards. Require students to explain their thinking and share their strategies. Discuss what perseverance means and what "thinking outside the box" means.

How will you know students are succeeding? Ask questions and observe whether the student has perseverance, fluency with basic facts, computation, and operations.